

What is E-cycling?

E-cycling is short for Electronics Recycling. Rather than throwing away old computers, cell phones, and other electronic equipment, individuals and businesses are finding other uses for their obsolete inventory. They are either refurbishing their equipment and placing it back into circulation, donating the equipment to schools and/or nonprofit agencies, or they are routing the equipment to other agencies that can dismantle, separate, and recycle the plastics, glass, and metals for use in new products. Electronic products often contain hazardous and toxic materials that pose environmental risks if they are placed in landfills or incinerated. In addition, many of those electronic products have batteries that contain nickel, cadmium, and other heavy metals which are harmful to the environment. It is imperative that all of us recycle our electronic equipment and batteries to reduce the amount of contamination and waste in the world today. This pamphlet will provide you with ways to reduce E-waste and how to recycle those outdated electronics.



Need More Information?

If you need more information on electronics recycling, please contact:

Earth 911

1-877-EARTH911

www.earth911.org

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1-800-241-1754

www.epa.gov

National Recycling Coalition

1-202-347-0450

www.nrc-recycle.org



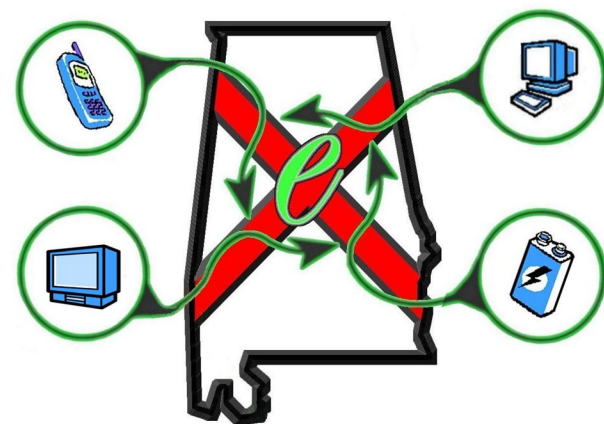
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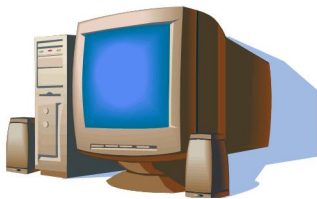







Your Guide to Recycling Electronics



Computers

According to the National Recycling Coalition's website, a recent study estimates that over 20 million personal computers became obsolete in the United States in 1998. Between 1997 and 2007, nearly 500 million personal computers will become obsolete. That's almost two computers for each person in the United States. However, with growing concerns for such disposal, more attention has been given to recycling and reusing unwanted computers. The following tips are recommendations on how to properly manage and recycle your current computer system.







-  Purchase only upgradeable equipment to extend the life of the product as long as possible.
-  Buy refurbished computer equipment to help reduce costs.
-  Resell working computer equipment. Not only is it economically beneficial, it allows less fortunate people the opportunity to own computers.
-  Keep your computer monitor in service and only replace the Central Processing Unit (CPU).
-  Donate used computers to charities or schools, either directly or through an organization involved in refurbishing or replacing them.

Cell Phones

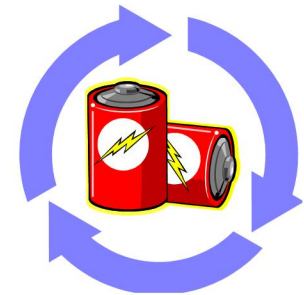
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates cell phones are thrown away at a rate of 130 million a year. There are more than 500 million used cell phones in the United States sitting in people's drawers or in our landfills. Every cell phone can be recycled. All makes and models of mobile phones, personal digital assistants (PDA's), and pagers are recyclable. Be sure to include the batteries, chargers and other accessories when recycling your old ones. The age or condition of a phone is not important. Every cell phone should be recycled.








-  Cell phone retailers will accept your old phones for recycling when you purchase a new one.
-  Cell phones are potentially hazardous because they contain lead, mercury, cadmium and arsenic. If thrown in the trash, environmental contamination can occur from combustion and leaking into soil and groundwater.
-  Before recycling your phone, erase all stored information. In addition, make sure your account has been terminated. Some recycled phones are resold and you don't want to receive a bill.
-  Check with your local charity groups. Most of them have donation programs for used cell phones.

Batteries

Each year, more than 125,000 tons or 3 billion single-use and rechargeable batteries are thrown away by American households and end up in our landfills. By recycling your used batteries, you are helping to create a cleaner and safer environment and keeping harmful battery by-products out of landfills. Here are some tips on how to decrease your personal battery use.



-  Use recyclable batteries. Not only are they cheaper in the long run, they are also the easiest to recycle.
-  Purchase batteries as you need them since they have a limited shelf life.
-  Never throw away items powered by batteries with the batteries still inside. Remove the batteries and recycle them.
-  Do not place batteries where they can overheat. The heat will speed up the chemical reaction and shorten the battery's life.
-  Purchase items with lithium ion batteries. Lithium ion batteries are capable of being recharged thousands of times and are easily recyclable.